



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

June 20, 2006

News Release

Four charged with illegally re-entering the U.S.

NEW HAVEN, CONN. --Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that a federal grand jury sitting in Bridgeport today returned four separate Indictments charging four men with illegally re-entering the United States after having been deported. Before re-entering the United States, anyone who has been deported must have the express consent of the U.S. Attorney General or his successor, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Juan Manuel Ortiz-Soto, age 47, has been charged with re-entering the U.S. subsequent to his prior deportation to the Dominican Republic on or about June 14, 1994. The Indictment alleges that Ortiz-Soto was previously convicted in New York of third degree criminal possession of a weapon and fifth degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. The Indictment further alleges that, on or about Jan. 20, 2006, Ortiz-Soto was found in Meriden, Connecticut, having re-entered the United States illegally.

If convicted, Ortiz-Soto faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Oscar Corona-Ramirez, age 30, has been charged with re-entering the U.S. subsequent to his two prior deportations to Mexico in Dec. 1999 and Jan. 2002, and with improper entry. The Indictment alleges that Corona-Ramirez was previously convicted of a state drug trafficking offense in California. The indictment further alleges that, on or about January 24, 2006, Corona-Ramirez was found in Stamford, Conn., having re-entered the U.S. illegally.

Freddy Pineda, age 38, has been charged with re-entering the U.S. subsequent to his two prior deportations to Guatemala in March 1999 and April 2004, and with improper entry. The Indictment alleges that Pineda was previously convicted of a state drug trafficking offense in Connecticut. The Indictment further alleges that, on or about Jan. 24, 2006, Pineda was found in Norwalk, Conn., having re-entered the United States illegally.

Antonio Romero-Vaquero, age 26, has been charged with re-entering the U.S. after having been deported to Mexico in Oct. 2003, and with improper entry. The Indictment alleges that Romero-Vaquero was previously convicted in Connecticut of illegal sexual contact with a minor, and that Romero-Vaquero was required to register as a sex offender in the State of Connecticut as a result of

that conviction. The Indictment further alleges that, on or about Nov. 27, 2005, Romero-Vaquero was found in New Britain, Connecticut, having re-entered the United States illegally.

If convicted, Corona-Ramirez, Pineda and Romero-Vaquero each faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the illegal re-entry charge, and a maximum term of imprisonment of six months and a fine of up to \$5,000 on the improper entry charge.

U.S. Attorney O'Connor stressed that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which it is the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

These cases were investigated by Special Agents of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") under the Department of Homeland Security. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys William M. Brown, Jr. and Krishna R. Patel.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.